

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BREMEN 00056 251120Z POSS DUPE
ACTION AGRE-00

INFO OCT-02 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 FRB-01 TRSE-00
AID-05 OES-07 HEW-06 CTME-00 OMB-01 STR-06 SS-15
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BONN FOR AGATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR GW
SUBJECT: MALEIC HYDRAZIDE RESIDUE ON TOBACCO

1. ABOUT ONE MONTH AGO WEST GERMAN ASSOCIATION OF
CIGARETTE MANUFACTURERS WARNED U.S. TOBACCO INTERESTS
THAT FRG MIGHT ADOPT MAXIMUM RESIDUE TOLERANCE OF
80 PPM MALEIC HYDRAZIDE IN TOBACCO PRODUCTS. ON BASIS
THIS INFORMATION WE RECEIVED TODAY INQUIRY FROM EUROPEAN
STATE REPRESENTATIVE OF NORTH CAROLINA CONCERNING CURRENT
STATUS OF MATTER AND HAVE DEVELOPED THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION.

2. ASSOCIATION REPORTS THAT 80 PPM RESIDUE IS FOR BLENDED
CIGARETTES AND NOT REPEAT NOT FOR LEAF TOBACCO OF INDIVIDUAL
ORIGIN. IN RECENT WEEKS ASSOCIATION SUCCEEDED IN OBTAINING
ELIMINATION OF MALEIC HYDRAZIDE FROM GERMAN LIST OF PLANT
PROTECTIVES FOR WHICH MAXIMUM RESIDUE TOLERANCES WILL BE
SET. LIST OF ELEVEN PLANT PROTECTIVES WITH RESTRICTED
RESIDUES ON TOBACCO WAS RECENTLY APPROVED BY BUNDESTAG
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(LOWER HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT) AND IS NOW BEING DELIBERATED IN
UPPER HOUSE. BECAUSE OF UNFORESEEN COMPLICATIONS WHICH HAVE
ARISEN OVER RESIDUES IN FOOD STUFFS (NOT TOBACCO), DATE OF
PASSAGE BY UPPER HOUSE UNCERTAIN.

3. IF GERMAN DECREE ON MAXIMUM RESIDUES RELATED TO TOBACCO
IS PASSED IN PRESENT FORM, WHICH APPEARS LIKELY, THERE WOULD

BE NO RESTRICTION ON MALEIC HYDRAZIDE. HOWEVER, ASSOCIATION WARNS THAT ATTENTION OF GERMAN PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITIES WILL REMAIN FOCUSED ON THIS PARTICULAR PLANT PROTECTIVE AND THAT RESTRICTIONS ON RESIDUE MAY BE INTRODUCED LATER.

4. RECENT SPOT ANALYSIS MADE BY ASSOCIATION OF IMPORTED U.S. LEAF TOBACCO SHOWS AVERAGE RESIDUE OF MALEIC HYDRAZIDE RUNNING AT ABOUT 180 PPM AND RESIDUES HAVE BEEN INCREASING. OF COURSE, OVERALL AVERAGE RESIDUE IN CIGARETTES IS REDUCED BY USE OF NON-U.S. TOBACCOS WITH LOW RESIDUES. BUT, IF U.S. TOBACCO CONTINUES TO BE HIGH IN MALEIC HYDRAZIDE RESIDUE, THIS WILL BECOME ADDED FACTOR IN CURRENT SHIFT AWAY FROM U.S. TOBACCO. ASSOCIATION BELIEVES VOLUNTARY REDUCTION IN USE OF MALEIC HYDRAZIDE BY U. S. TOBACCO GROWERS MAY ASSIST IN AVOIDING RESTRICTIVE LEGAL ACTION BY GERMAN HEALTH AUTHORITIES WHICH COULD SET PERMISSIBLE MAXIMUM BELOW 80 PPM ORIGINALLY PROPOSED BY ASSOCIATION FOR FINISHED TOBACCO PRODUCTS. HUNTER

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